

# Gainesville Daily Sun.

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TEN CENTS A WEEK

## FLORIDA LEGISLATURE WILL CONVENE TODAY

**Prohibition, Disfranchisement and Better Roads to be Issues---Farris Speaker of House.**

TALLAHASSEE, April 5.—Incoming trains Sunday and today brought large crowds of people, and nearly every member of the Legislature, which convenes to-morrow, is on hand and ready for the fray. The famous old capital nestling in the classic red clay hills of Leon county is already presenting a most animated scene, and it is conceded by all that the session of 1909 will be most intensely interesting in the history of this proud commonwealth.

The lobbyist, with his many schemes, is on hand, and confident that he will find here and there a member whom he can "work to a finish." The Legislature is composed of an able body of men as a rule, but there are those here, however, who care little for the people's will, and who will serve special interests, and who will take no cognizance of the bills purporting and intending to advance the peace and prosperity of the State of Florida as a whole. Those who have studied the situation declare this element is an exceedingly

small one, and good results are expected from the work to be done.

### Prohibition Question.

The House is said to be unquestionably favorable to submitting the liquor proposition to the electors of the State, while the Senate is regarded as close. The absence of saloon men is accepted as diplomatic on the part of the "wets" and the management of the contest in behalf of the "antis" is to be left with able men like Senator Buckman and others on the floor.

### Many Important Measures.

At this session will be brought up many important measures to the people of Florida, among the proposed legislation being bills on the question of State-wide prohibition, good roads, disfranchisement of the negro, State guarantee of bank deposits, changes in the primary law, reapportionment, the convict lease system, and many other matters of an important nature.

### The Caucus.

TALLAHASSEE, April 5, 11:50 p. m.—Jon L. Farris of Jacksonville will be Speaker of House. Senate caucus still debating on Senate Presidency.

## UNIVERSITY NOTES

Arrangements are being made for the approaching commencement. The various classes are having preliminary contests to determine who shall represent them as speakers, and the authorities have already selected the speakers from outside the college. Announcement has already been made that the address to the graduates will be made by Dr. Jas. H. Dillard. The people of the city will be glad to know that Dr. Albert B. Curry, of Memphis, has accepted an invitation to preach the baccalaureate sermon. Dr. Curry is too well-known to need an introduction to the Gainesville people, and his many friends will be glad to have an opportunity of hearing him preach again.

The cadet battalion was inspected Thursday morning by Major Penn, U. S. A. Major Penn is especially detailed by the War Department to inspect schools having a military course. From Gainesville he went to Charleston to inspect the "Citadel." The chapel exercises on Friday morning were made particularly interesting by the presence of the Rev. Mr. Martin and of Mr. and Mrs. Schofield. The religious exercises were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Martin, after which Mr. and Mrs. Schofield delighted all present with their singing.

Prof. Fawcett's thesis, mentioned last week in these columns, has had many compliments paid to it. Because of the merits of this thesis the signal honor has been given to Mr. Fawcett of being elected a member of the St. Louis Academy of Science. The latest addition to the station staff is Mr. Owen F. Burger, B. A. Mr. Burger is a recent graduate of the University of Indiana. He comes here as an assistant to Prof. Fawcett, and will also enter the University proper as a graduate student.

The annual inspection of the Experiment Station will be made this year by Dr. E. W. Allen, of the Agricultural Department, Washington. These inspections are by no means a mere matter of form, but are very thorough. The Department is interested mainly in what experiments are under way and in the financial condition of the Station.

The Station is setting out over two hundred varieties of leguminous plants. The seeds came for the most part from foreign countries. It is desired to find out which of these plants can profitably be introduced into the State. As a result of similar acclimatization experiments it has been discovered that the Lyon bean is peculiarly adapted to Florida. This bean promises to rival or even to exceed the velvet bean.

One series of steerfeeding experiments has just been concluded, and the steers have been sold. The steers were fed on velvet beans, sweet potatoes, Japanese cane and corn, combined in such proportions as to form a balanced ration. Last year's experiments demonstrated that steers fed on velvet beans made the greatest gain per day and at the least cost.

Experiments in feeding dairy cows so as to get the greatest possible amount of milk are now under way. It is sought to find out the relative value of balanced rations of velvet beans, corn, and silage as compared with balanced rations of cotton seed meal, bean, and silage. Last year comparative tests were made between balanced rations of cotton seed meal, bean, and shorts, on the one hand, and essential meal, bean, and shorts on the other. The test demonstrated that essential meal was a good substitute, but that it was more expensive pound per pound in producing milk than cottonseed meal.

overpowered. No one in the city comprehended the slightest trouble. The mob fired one volley at the negro and quickly dispersed. The negro confessed to the killing of the policeman yesterday.

## SMALL BOYS CREDITED WITH A \$2,000,000 FIRE

**Three Hundred Wealthy Families Were Made Homeless By the Great Conflagration.**

FORT WORTH, Tex., April 5.—To a party of small boys and a carelessly thrown cigarette, is generally credited the fire of Saturday, which destroyed property in South Fort Worth valued at \$2,000,000, caused the death of one person, J. J. Newton, a bank employe, the serious injury of six others, rendered 300 families homeless and will cause the temporary idleness of several hundred workmen employed in the manufacturing plants and business houses burned.

All of yesterday and last night the burned district was under the guard of State troops to prevent looting, and although worn out by their continuous labors, the entire fire-fighting force of the city is still engaged in extinguishing, finally, the burning embers, which, with the wind still high, spasmodically springs into a blaze. Yesterday morning a mass meeting of citizens was held and relief committees named. However, because the fact that the burned residence district was populated largely by those in comfortable circumstances, the monetary relief needed will be small.

### 300 Dwellings Burned.

The fire started at May and Tucker streets. Driven by a gale blowing from the southwest, the flames quickly spread to adjoining buildings. After

eating its way through the residence district after reducing to ashes 300 pretentious dwellings, three church buildings, Broadway Presbyterian and Baptist churches and the Swedish chapel and the Walker Sanitarium, the flames, spreading to the south, attacked the manufacturing plant of the Sawyer Electrical Company. This building was quickly destroyed and five large warehouses and several smaller business houses suffered a like fate.

The yards of the Texas and Pacific railroad were next in the pathway of the fire. The round house, repair shops, coal chutes and several hundred box cars were destroyed and twenty locomotives were reduced to twisted masses of steel and iron. To the east, the stone and steel depot building proved a barrier to an encroachment toward the wholesale district, and although several times flying sparks would ignite a roof or flooring in this section, as quickly would one of a hastily formed band of volunteer firemen be on hand to check it in its incipency. Thus after burning for four hours, the fire was finally brought under control.

The burned area is approximately a mile and a half in length and a half mile wide. A careful estimate places the aggregate of the loss at \$2,000,000.

## Fire Endangers Lives of Over 600 Insane Persons

WOODWARD, Okla., April 5.—Six hundred insane persons were in danger of death yesterday when flames starting from the prairie fire destroyed several buildings of the State insane asylum at Fort Supply.

The fire broke out in the laundry building shortly after the inmates had returned to their quarters from the noon meal. The asylum fire department was ordered out, and every effort was made to conceal from the patients the fact that the building was burning. A woman, seeing the fire,

however, excitedly gave the alarm. Attendants then rushed among their charges and narrowly averted a panic.

The fire spread from the laundry to the pharmacy supply building, and threatened the asylum itself. The inmates yielded to entreaties of the attendants, and kept good order when the danger was greatest.

By hard work the firemen saved the various ward buildings.

There was no loss of life. The stables, laundry, pharmacy and employees' quarters were destroyed. The loss is \$75,000.

### WATSON TO RETURN.

Has Gainesville Fever and Can't Stay Away From the City.

Ira Watson, the pitcher who was with the Oak Hall aggregation last season, has got the "Gainesville fever" and will return to join the Oak Hall organization of baseball artists within the next day or so.

Watson was advanced to higher so-

ciety, the Virginia State League, but he became dissatisfied and notwithstanding the fact that he received flattering offers from South Carolina, he decided his route was back to Gainesville, and to use his own words: "I'm going back to God's country."

Isn't there something which only a want ad. can do for you today?

## Slayer of Pensacola Officer Was Lynched by Mob

PENSACOLA, April 5.—That Dave Alexander, a negro bayman, is the murderer of Police Officer R. J. Carter is the belief of the police officials, who have the negro in custody charged with having killed the officer. The murder, which was committed yesterday morning about 1 o'clock in a negro settlement, evidently followed a fight between the officer and negro. From what the police can gain the officer was riding his beat when he was attracted to one of the negro houses by disorderly conduct. He arrested one man and dismounting started with him for the nearest patrol call box, and it was between the house and box that the fight occurred, as the soil showed signs of a scuffle. The negro evidently had an open knife in his hand when arrested and in the fight he plunged this repeatedly into the breast of the officer. Blood stains on the sand showed that after receiving his death wound the officer followed the negro for fully fifty yards before falling dead. Two shots were heard and it is believed that the officer fired these just before dropping as two empty cartridges were found in his revolver. When the dead body was found the officers had no clue to the murder and believed that

friends of the negro whom the officer had killed just two weeks prior had committed the deed, but shortly afterwards the wife of Dave Alexander appeared and inquired if she could get bond for her husband. She was informed that he was not in jail, and had not been arrested. The woman was ignorant of the murder and told the turnkey that Officer Carter had arrested her husband at their home and had left there with him. This gave the officers the clue and after a search the negro was found hiding. His clothing showed evidence of having been in a fight. He stolidly denies his guilt and claims that he was not even arrested and had never seen the policeman.

PENSACOLA, April 5.—David Alexander, the negro who killed Police Officer Carter on Saturday night, was taken from the police station at 3 o'clock this morning by a masked mob, quickly rushed to the public square a few yards away, and lynched from the same pole that Leander Shaw was strung to some weeks ago.

The mob was quiet and orderly but determined in this work.

The police were taken unawares, and those at the station were quickly

## Two Noted Safe Blowers Make Escape From Prison

GREENVILLE, S. C., April 5.—Barney Moore, alias "Finnese Dutch," and George Barton, alleged "leg men," who were arrested in Birmingham, Ala., and who were brought here by postoffice inspectors on March 20th on a charge of having committed numerous postoffice robberies in this State, escaped from the county jail by dynamiting the floor of the cell early Monday.

They drilled holes in the rock floor of the jail with a drill made of an umbrella handle. It is believed they had outside help. The night guard declares the men did not pass him and that he was awake all night. Indications are that the drilling was done from a cellar under the cell occupied by the prisoners.

Keep your eye on the want ads. There may be something advertised which is of interest to you.

## Young Woman Burns to Death in Historic House

WINCHESTER, Va., April 5.—Miss Virginia Carter, the young daughter of House B. Carter, burned to death in a fire which destroyed their home, "Yellow House," at Rest, this county, one of the most historic structures in the State. Both Mr. and Mrs. Carter were badly burned in a futile effort to save their daughter. They are expected to recover.

"Yellow House" was more than 200 years old and was the scene of many notable events during Revolutionary

and Civil War times. Gen. George Washington stopped there while on his way to Braddock's relief at Fort Duquesne, and during the conflict between the States it was the home of Miss Rachel Wright, whose information to Gen. Sheridan was of such value to the Federal army during his valley campaign that Congress voted her a gold medal in appreciation of her services.

The origin of the fire which destroyed this historic place is unknown.